as Minister's discretionary quota for regularisation of Class IV category and Casual labour (Class IV or Gr. 'D' employees are in any case regular employees and do not have to be regularised). Therefore, the question of whether any regularisations have taken place against such quota and details thereof, does not arise.

Japanese cooperation for Indian Railway Network

110. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japanese experts are going to conduct an in-depth study of Indian railway network as per the recent decision of Indo-Japanese working group;

(b) the broad features of the decision; and

(c) the other fields in railway working in which Japan has offered to extend cooperation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) During the 8th Meeting of Indo-Japan Railway Working Group, held in New Delhi on 21.01.97, the Japanese side offered to extend cooperation in the fields of Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Signalling, Track Technology and Safety. They also submitted a proposal for a detailed study of the safety aspect of Indian Railways.

गुजरात में रेलवे स्टेशनों का आधुनिकीकरण

111. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान गुजरात में रेलवे स्टेशनों के आधुनिकीकरण के लिए कितनी धनराशि निर्धारित की गई है;

(ख) प्रत्येक रेलवे स्टेशन के लिए कितनी-कितनी धनराशि खर्च की गई अथवा किए जाने की संभावना है;

(ग) उन रेलवे स्टेशनों के आधुनिकीकरण के लिए क्या लक्ष्य निर्धारित किए गए हैं जहां कार्य प्रगति पर हैं;

(घ) क्या चालू वित्तीय वर्ष के दौरान उपरोक्त आधुनिकीकरण कार्यक्रम में अहमदाबाद, गांधीधाम, भुज, जामनगर रेल जंक्शनों को शामिल किया गया है;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में आरंभ किये जाने वाले कार्यों का ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण है?

रेल मत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सतपाल महाराज): (क) से (ग) रेलवे स्टेशनों का आधुनिकीकरण, जरूरत आधारित कार्यक्रम के अनुसार यात्री यातायात में वृद्धि होने के कारण अपेक्षित होने पर शुरू किया जाता है जो धन राशि की उपलब्धता पर निर्भर करता है आधुनिकीकरण संबंधी विभिन्न कार्य शुरू करने के लिए पश्चिम रेलवे, जिसमें गुजरात राज्य शामिल है को 13.90 करोड़ रुपये का आवंटन उपलब्ध कराया गया है इस संबंध में आबंटन और खर्च राज्य वार नहीं रखे जाते हैं विभिन्न स्टेशनों पर शुरू किए गए कार्यों को मार्च 1999 तक पूरा करने का कार्यक्रम बनाया गया है।

(घ) से (च) अहमदाबाद में प्लेटफार्म लाइन सं. 4 पर धुलनीय एप्रेन की व्यवस्था जलापूर्ति में सुधार, बेहतर रोशनी, यात्री लिफ्ट सं. 2 का बदलाव, प्लेटफार्म सायबान में सुधार तथा प्रतीक्षालयों में सुधार और जामनगर स्टेशन में कोटा पत्थर का फर्श बिछाने से संबंधित कार्य शुरू किए गए हैं। गांधीधाम और भुज के लिए इस समय कोई कार्य स्वीकृत नहीं किया गया है। यातायात में वृद्धि होने से अपेक्षित होने पर इन स्टेशनों पर भी कार्य करने का विचार किया जाएगा।

Modernisation of Ludhiana Railway Station

112. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any scheme to modernise and develop the Ludhiana Railway station;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the fund allocated for the purpose by Government during 1996-97; and

(d) the action being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Modernisation of railway stations is undertaken on need based programme so warranted by growth in passenger traffic depending on the availability of funds. Accordingly a work of extension of platform and new island platform has been

taken up at Ludhiana at a cost of Rs. 2.72 crore with an allocation of Rs. 45.00 lakh during 1996-97.

12.00 NOON

The Deputy Chairman in the Chair

Papers laid on the Table

Bills passed by the Houses of Parliamentary and assented to by the President.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Hundred and Seventy-ninth Session of the Rajya Sabha and assented to by the President. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-1327197)

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India on Kudremukh Iron Ore Company limited.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): Madam, on behalf of Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya, I beg to a lay on the Table, under clause (1) of article 151 of the Constitution, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government No. 4 (Commercial) of 1996 on Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-1312197).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, you lay the papers mentioned against your name.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (WEST BENGAL): Madam, I have a general point to make on this.

As far as these Ordinances, copies of these Ordinances, which the hon. Minister is going to place on the Table of the House, are concerned, I know that it is as per the Constitutional requirement under sub-clause (a) of clause (2) of article 123 of the Constitution. I know that he is fulfilling the Constitutional requirement.

But Madam, if you look at the dates on which these Ordinances were promulgated, you would find that it appears as if the Government was just waiting for the Parliament Session to be adjourned so that they could promulgate this bunch of Ordinances.

The first Ordinance was promulgated on the 31st December; just within a week of adjournment of the House. On 9th January, as many as three Ordinances were promulgated. Then, on the 15th January, there were two Ordinances. On the 16th January, one Ordinance was promulgated. Again, as many as four Ordinances were promulgated on the 24th January.

If you look into the subject-matter of these Ordinances, you would find that in respect of most of the items, there was no reason why it could not have been done through the normal legislative route, instead of through the Ordinance route, as was the case here.

Madam, there is an element of urgency behind the issue of an Ordinance. This Constitutional provision was inserted to facilitate the Executive to make laws when Parliament was not in Session. The aim was to see that the administrative work was not hampered. Keeping that objective in view, this provision was inserted in the Constitution. Surely, it cannot be used just to bypass the Legislature or the Parliament and thereby making it a *fait accompli* on the Legislature or the Parliament to approve these Ordinances and convert them into laws. That is why I object to this.

The hon. Minister and the other Ministers who are in charge of the various legislations to which these Ordinaces relate would have to take note of it. In each case, we demand an explanation as to the urgency. Without urgency, there cannot be any Ordinance. We would like to know as to what is the urgency in each of these cases. If you look at some of these legislations, you would find that they have been waiting for years, for months. Why could we not wait for a few more weeks? Why should it be done in the interventing period between two Parliament Session?

Thank you, Madam.